

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2024CW001		
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Glynn Preschool		
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Glynn N.S, Glynn, Saint Mullins, Co. Carlow		
<b>Eircode:</b>	R96 XH58		
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	John Brennan, Catriona Brennan		
<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional		
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	16/01/2025		
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	17	PM N/A
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspector Tusla Child and Family Agency Ely Hospital, Ferrybank, Wexford.		
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	E Mc Garry		
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector		
<b>Authority to Inspect</b>			
The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(J) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).			
<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not applicable		

### Description of service

Glynn Preschool was first registered in August 2024 to provide a sessional service to children aged from 2 to 6 years of age. The service is open from 9.30am to 12.30pm Monday to Friday and can accommodate up to 22 preschool children. The service operates from a prefabricated building to the rear of the national school in the village of Glynn Co Carlow. The premises consists of an entrance lobby, a playroom and toilets. The school is located beside the church where parents can park to bring and collect children from the preschool. The preschool has their own designated outdoor play area which is fully enclosed to the side of the premises. The registered providers also operate a full day care service called Maple Tree Nursery close to this sessional service.

### Staffing

There are three staff employed in the service. All staff working directly with the preschool children held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 and above on the National Qualifications Framework.

### Methodology

Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate is the independent statutory regulator of early years services in Ireland. The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 define the duty of a registered provider to ensure the safety and well-being of children and to comply with these regulations. This Act also gives Tusla the authority to assess compliance with the regulations. The purpose of regulation in relation to early years services is to ensure that the care, safety, and well-being of children attending such services is upheld. Inspections of early years services are planned based on the following:

- Previous inspection history
- Any information received in relation to the service

The findings on inspection are based on:

- Information obtained through examination of documentation
- Direct observation
- Discussion with relevant staff

This inspection was unannounced and focused on the area of governance/ health, welfare and development of child/ safety/ premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on the following regulations:

Regulation 9 (1)(a)(b)(2)(a)(b)(c)(d)(4) Management and Recruitment,  
Regulation 10 Policies and procedure,  
Regulation 11(1)(2) Staffing levels,  
Regulation 19 (a) Care and welfare of the preschool child,  
Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety, and Welfare of the Child,  
Regulation 25 First aid,  
Regulation 26 Fire Safety,  
Regulation 28 Insurance.

Inspection findings are documented in the inspection report which is first issued in draft format to the service with an opportunity to respond to any findings. Where statutory requirements are identified as not being met, the registered provider must demonstrate how they have rectified the non-compliance and will prevent any non-compliance from re occurring. The Corrective Action and Preventive Action plan (CAPA) will be used to inform decisions about compliance with regulatory requirements. Where the registered provider fails to meet the statutory requirements an escalation process may be commenced.

The inspectorate reserves the right to edit responses received for reasons including clarity, completeness and compliance with administrative and legal processes.

The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body.

## Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

### Part III – Management and Staff

#### Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that-

- (a) the service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required,
- (b) at all times during the period when the pre-school service is being carried on, the designated person in charge or the named person referred to in subparagraph (a) is on the premises, and

(2) A registered provider shall ensure that each employee, unpaid worker and contractor is suitable and competent taking into consideration the nature of the needs of children, including by-

- (a) consideration of references from the person's past employers, if any, and in particular the most recent employer, if any,
- (b) consideration of references from reputable sources in the case of a person who has no past employers,
- (c) consideration of the vetting disclosure received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána in accordance with the Act of 2012 in respect of the person, and
- (d) ensuring, insofar as is practicable, that where a person has lived in a state other than the State for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months, he or she provides police vetting from the police authorities in that state.

(4) A registered provider shall ensure that, without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (2) and subject to paragraphs (5) and (6), each employee working directly with children attending the service holds at least a major award in Early childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

#### Compliance Information

(1)(a)(b)

The manager was the person in charge on the day of inspection. There was a deputy manager also available to deputise if required. The manager remained in the service for the duration of the inspection.

(2)(a)(b)

Following a discussion with the manager and on review of documentation, it was established that there were three staff employed in the service. There were six written and validated references available on file for staff working in the service.

(c)

There was Garda vetting available on file in the service for all three staff members. The service had demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate regulatory notice to renew Garda vetting every three years. This had been completed as required for all three staff.

(d)

Police vetting was not required as no staff member had lived in a state other than Ireland for a period of longer than six consecutive months.

(4)

There were qualifications on file for all three staff working directly with the preschool children. These staff held an award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 and above on the National Qualifications Framework.

### Part III – Management and Staff

#### Regulation 10 - Policies, procedures etc. of pre-school service

*A registered provider of a pre-school service shall ensure that the written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 are in place for the service.*

#### Compliance Information

There were policies and procedures in place in the service specified in Schedule 5 of these regulations. The policies reviewed for this inspection included the policy on infection control and the healthy eating policy.

### Part III – Management and Staff

#### Regulation 11 - Staffing levels

*(1) Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that there is at all times an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.*

*(3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 of Schedule 6 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Part in respect of the age range of the children specified in column (2) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.*

#### Compliance Information

(1)

There was an adequate number of staff always working directly with the children during the inspection.

(3)

There were 17 children aged between 2 and 6 in the care of 2 staff.

The registered provider ensured that the minimum ratio of staff to children specified in column (3) of Part 1 of Schedule 6 was always maintained during the period of inspection.

## Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

### Regulation 19 - Health, welfare and development of child

*(1) A registered provider shall, in providing a pre-school service, ensure that-*

*(a) each child's learning, development and well-being is facilitated within the daily life of the pre-school service through the provision of the appropriate activities, interaction, materials and equipment, having regard to the age and stage of development of the child, and*

#### Compliance Information

(1)(a)

During the morning of inspection, the inspector observed the staff members in the service ensured that each child's learning, development and well-being was facilitated during the session. The classroom provided a variety of areas of interest to encourage and stimulate children's play and imagination. The areas of interest included a kitchen/ home area, dolls area, reading and rest area. There was a birthday wall and a display of photographs of the children and their families. Low level shelving allowed easy access to storage boxes of play materials and small world toys to stimulate the imagination of the children present.

The inspector observed the staff helping the children to complete artwork using a variety of paint colours. Staff were observed encouraging children to take turns to speak and chat about their various interests. Staff were supportive helping children to wash their hands before their snack.

The children were observed playing in the outdoor area. On the day of inspection, the service used the large enclosed outdoor area to facilitate outdoor play. Ride on toys were provided and the children also enjoyed free play with each other. Staff were observed to be constantly engaged with the children and ensured they were wrapped up warmly in their coats and hats as it was a cold day.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

*A registered provider shall ensure that all reasonable measures are taken to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of a pre-school child attending the service and that the environment of the service is safe.*

#### Compliance Information

##### GENERAL SAFETY:

The external door was secured to prevent children from exiting unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised access to the service. The service was accessed through a front door which was secure on arrival and remained secure for the duration of the inspection.

All cleaning agents were stored on high shelves which were inaccessible to children.

Children were facilitated to play in the large, enclosed playground which was shared with the national school. This area was safe, suitable and secure.

##### INFECTION CONTROL:

The service had an infection control policy. The service was clean and maintained. All toilets had access to warm thermostatically controlled water, liquid soap, disposable hand towels and pedal operated bins. Children were observed washing their hands before eating, after toileting and after messy play.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 25 - First aid

*(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a person trained in first aid for children is, at all times, immediately available to the children attending the pre-school service.*

*(2) A registered provider shall ensure that a suitably equipped first aid box for children-*

*(a) is safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises, and*

*(b) is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.*

#### Compliance Information

(1)

There was a person trained in first aid responder course immediately available to the children attending the preschool service. All hours of the roster were covered by a person who was trained in a first aid responder course.

(2)(a)(b)

There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible position on the premises and was available to the children attending the preschool service.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 26 - Fire safety measures

*(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of-*

*(a) any fire drill that takes place in the premises, and*

*(b) the number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.*

*(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire shall be displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.*

### Compliance Information

(1)(a)

There was a template in place to record the monthly fire drills which had taken place in the service. There was a fire drill carried out in January 2025.

(1)(b)

The firefighting equipment was last serviced in August 2024 and the wired smoke alarm was last serviced in October 2024.

(4)

There was a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire displayed in a conspicuous position in the hallway of the service.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 28 - Insurance

*A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.*

### Compliance Information

There was insurance in place to cover the number of children who were present on the day of inspection.